

## PATENT APPLICATION

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Michael M. Khonsari *et al.* Group 3676  
Filing Date: October 20, 2003 Examiner Patel, Vishal A.  
Attorney File: 0311 Khonsari  
Title: Mechanical Seal Having a Double-Tier Mating Ring

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### REQUEST FOR REFUND OF PUBLICATION FEE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.211(a)(3) & (e)

Dear Sir:

The Commissioner is respectfully requested to refund the enclosed \$300 publication fee by credit to Deposit Account No. 20-0096.

The application was allowed on November 1, 2004, and the issue fee and publication fee are being mailed in the same envelope as the present Request, on November 8, 2004.

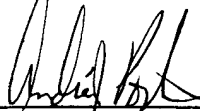
This application was filed on October 20, 2003. The benefit of no earlier filing date is claimed. According to the Filing Receipt, the projected publication date of the application is April 21, 2005, i.e., eighteen months after the filing date, and approximately 5 months after the issue fee is being paid.

It therefore appears highly likely that a patent will issue from this application substantially before the projected April 21, 2005 publication date for the application. Accordingly, as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.211(a)(3), the application *per se* should no longer

be published. Then, as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.211(e), the publication fee should be refunded since the application *per se* should no longer be scheduled for publication.

Refund of the enclosed \$300 publication fee is therefore respectfully requested, by credit to Deposit Account No. 20-0096.

Respectfully submitted,



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November 9, 2004